extended up to 31.3.2007. The scope of this Scheme now has been extended to provide reimbursement of expenses of acquiring Environmental Management System (EMS) ISO 14001 Certificate w.e.f. 18.10.2002.

Development of Export Infrastructure

4490. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided on a twelve fold increase to Rs.330 crore for the year 2002-2003 in assistance to States for development of export infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether a conference on export promotion efforts was held recently and has decided to set up institutional mechanism like Export Promotion Council under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers of States;

(c) whether the States have also been asked to put in place export policies based on export promotion plans for the major commodities exported by them in consultation with Export Promotion Council; and

(d) if so, to what extent, this will give a boost to the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) The Department of Commerce has a Scheme for development of Export infrastructure called Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE). In 2001-2002, the allocation under this Scheme was Rs. 49.52 crores. This was increased to Rs. 322.88 crores for the year 2002-2003.

(b) to (d) No such conference was held. However, commodity-specific Export Promotion Councils are functioning for promotion of exports of those commodities. Export Promotion Committees in the States have also been set up under the chairmanship of the Chief Ministers of the States to put forward the export policy for States and work towards the setting up of export infrastructure and promotion of overall exports in the States. The involvement of States in the export promotion is expected to give a major boost to the exports.

Decanalising the Petroleum Imports

4491. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to decanalise petroleum imports presently handled by State-owned trading agencies;

(b) whether Government are committed by WTO Charter to decanalise its